



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

Appropriations Committee Testimony
David Guay, Executive Administrator
Office of Governmental Accountability
March 22, 2013

Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Miner and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee – my name is David Guay, Executive Administrator of the Office of Governmental Accountability. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in favor of House Bill 6353 and House Bill 6354.

These bills continue the consolidation effort initiated two years ago; consolidation which seeks two things, efficiencies and savings.

House Bill 6353 eliminates the special exemption for the budget proposals of the Office of State Ethics, State Elections Enforcement Commission and the Freedom of Information Commission and places their budget proposals on par with the Legislative and Judicial branches of government. The public process of adopting a budget ensures integrity in the proposing, discussion and adoption of these important entities budgets.

House Bill 6354 completes the consolidation of the Information Technology (IT) function. This will enable the Office of the Executive Administrator (OEA) to support IT applications and provide case management software across all of OGA's divisions.

This bill would also consolidate OGA fiscal functions which is necessary to provide the full segregation of duties and to better support the Citizens Elections Fund.

Additionally, the bill would initiate the consolidation of communications staff which would allow all of the OGA divisions to benefit from this resource which is currently limited to the Office of State Ethics.

Finally, the bill would create a new Office of Hearings. Among the attorneys employed by the three divisions within the Office of Governmental Accountability are some who have worked in other state agencies, other OGA divisions or in private practice; they have the capability to perform work for other divisions within OGA. The attorneys would be able to cross train which improves OGA's efficiency enabling more hearings to be scheduled or scheduled more quickly if the resources are available for that purpose.

This proposal leaves the compliance or advice functions in the State Elections Enforcement Commission, Office of State Ethics and the Freedom of Information Commission. The procedural relationship of the attorneys to the various Boards and Commissions and offices does not change.

The continued consolidation of the OGA is about efficiency by maximizing the use of the current resources. Without these efficiencies, future savings will be limited. Future savings will occur by limiting future hiring since resources will be used across the agency.